

Drug Policy Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2006

Voting Council Members Present: Director Marvin Van Haaften, Jeanette Bucklew, Charlotte Burt for Linda Miller, Janet Zwick, Ken Carter, Dick Moore, Stew Barnes, Pam Dettmann, Chris Wilson and Mary Nelson.

Non-voting Members Present: Al Overbaugh, LTC Tim Glynn

Guests: Det. Jeff Hughes, Grinnell Police Department

Staff Present: Dale Woolery, Dennis Wiggins and Becky Swift

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Director Van Haaften at 1:10 p.m. He introduced Detective Jeff Hughes of the Grinnell Police Department and the Iowa Association of Chiefs of Police and Peace Officers, where he will serve as president next year. Director Van Haaften mentioned the January 13, 2006, passing of Council member Chief Doug Book who represented the Iowa Association of Chiefs of Police and Peace Officers. Detective Hughes, as a member of that organization, will be submitting an application to fulfill Chief Books' appointment to the Council. Additional introductions took place.

Minutes

The minutes of the November 17, 2005 were approved as submitted.

Report to the Legislature re: Senate File 169

The Iowa Pseudoephedrine Control Act required that Director Van Haaften report on its progress six months following implementation. That report was provided to the Legislature in December. Director Van Haaften provided highlights of that report to the Council. The lab count during the first six month following the implementation of the law was down nearly 80%, however the amount of meth in the state, and the demand for both the drug and for meth treatment are steady or rising. A comment was made that there is a perception by the public that because labs are down it means that meth use is down. It is important to correct this message and make the public aware that meth is a continued threat to our communities.

In addition to the reduced number of labs, another notable impact of the law is that Burn Center in Iowa City reported a saving of \$2.5 million since the implementation of the new law. They are seeing fewer patients due to burns from meth manufacture.

Drug Treatment Proposal

The Iowa Department of Public Health, Attorney Generals Office and the Department of Corrections submitted a bill to increase funding for drug treatment, which was introduced on 2-7-06 by Senator Kreiman. Dick provided a brief overview of the proposed legislation, which is similar to a bill introduced last year. If this bill isn't passed, another proposal will be submitted next year. An ensuing discussion regarding Model Drug Courts followed. A bill has been introduced to implement a drug court in each county using the national model, which calls for judicial oversight. Last year community corrections' was opposed to this model because it doesn't allow for panel courts which are currently used in Marshalltown and Sioux City. Additional discussion took place regarding community based corrections and their role in drug

courts. Director Van Haaften mentioned a meeting a meeting of the House Public Safety Committee that he and several other council members attend. The focus of this meeting was on drug treatment and prevention programming. The committee requested additional information about drug treatment in Iowa, which Director Van Haaften and Janet Zwick are compiling.

Legislative Issues

Chris Wilson brought up the Safe KYDS/Nick's Law bills that will be introduced by the Department of Public Safety. Among other things, these bills would require keg registration and increase penalties for providing alcohol to a minor. Discussion arose regarding this legislation and the prevention pieces. It was mentioned that the keg registration piece had not been introduced, but would be on February 13. Director Van Haaften will send all Iowa Sheriff's examples of keg registration ordinances that have been passed in an effort to compel all counties to do the same. It was the general belief that multiple local ordinances regarding pseudoephedrine control assist in the passage of SF 169 in 2005.

Discussion arose regarding proposed legislation to reduce the sentence for a possession of a "small" amount of marijuana to a simple misdemeanor, which is contrary to a possession bill that would increase penalties and have a significant impact on prison population. Dick Moore felt that this proposal related to a Government Oversight Committee discussion about rethinking all criminal sentences, especially drug-related offenses.

Stew Barnes brought up HF2183 related to mandatory minimum sentences. He asked if there was a treatment component to this bill. He discussed the laws' impact on prison population and the need for resources, such as substance abuse treatment, to address inmate issues. He stated that the sentences are not risk-focused and that inmates who complete treatment and are ready for release may still have time left in their sentences. He felt that inmates who met the requirements of treatment, including successful completion, should be considered for release rather than continue to languish in the system. Dale Woolery asked Officer Barnes to send case antidotes that he shared.

State Incentive Grant

Dep. Director Zwick reported that the SIG Advisory Committee meeting had been cancelled. She informed the board that the SIG programming is completed, and that the analysis of the curriculum is being finalized. The state EPI grant will allow funding for some additional SIG data analysis.

Funding Update

Director Van Haaften reported that the Presidents '07 budget is dire. It zero's out the Byrne/JAG funding which would negatively impact at least 75% of Iowa's counties. ODCP is currently working to braid COPS and JAG funding to continue the Task Forces and keep 27 officers through June 2007. Funding after that is questionable. Director Van Haaften will work the Iowa Congressional Delegation for restoration of funding in the 2007 budget.

Division Director Moore discussed Juvenile Justice funding, which is currently down 1.4 million from 3 million, and could be cut by half yet again.

Deputy Director Zwick reported that the SAMHSA block grant funding is level, but the discretionary funding has been cut.

Division Director Carter reported that HIDTA oversight has been transferred from ONDCP to the Department of Justice, where the focus is on major drug crimes. He thought this may then

move to OSADF to focus on major drug crime trafficking areas. He stated that all of the cuts would take Midwest law enforcement back years. Director Van Haaften indicated that Iowa stands to lose 100 law enforcement officers if the budget is passed.

Discussion arose regarding the need to pull together a plan of action and let Congress know overall impact the budget cuts would have.

Charlotte Burt mentioned that Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funding was decreased 25% in the current year and has been completely cut in the 2007 budget.

Council Membership Overview

Becky Swift reminded the Council about the dates of future DPAC meetings (May 11, August 10, and November 9), all of which will take place from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Ola Babcock Miller Building, 112 E. Grand Avenue. She also discussed the procedure for designating a substitute (statutory membership only) and reviewed Iowa Code Section 69.15 related to meeting attendance policy. A handout containing this information was distributed.

Other Business

Director Judy Jeffrey, Department of Education, has designated Charlotte Burt to attend Council meetings on her behalf, replacing Linda Miller as the previous designee.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Ola Babcock Miller Building on Thursday, May 11 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. Council members were offered the opportunity to tour the Criminalistics Laboratory.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Swift".

Becky Swift